

Cellular telephones and wireless communications devices should be prohibited from use on commercial aircraft operating under 14CFR121 & 14CFR135 rules. Although a cellular telephone may seem convenient and innocent, its signal may be detrimental to the avionics and flight control system integration of a computerized airliner. In most cases, cellular telephony won't work at the altitudes that commercial aircraft operate within the National Airspace System.

Flight attendants onboard these aircraft are not trained to recognize the technology of the system being used, and it is possible that the cellular phone could compromise the navigation system while in flight. In any case, using deception, the telephone case that would appear to be a phone that transmits at only 300mW, could have been reworked internally, and be redesigned as a high powered jammer or detonation device on an entirely different frequency. A flight attendant would not know this, but she would be able to identify whether someone was using a phone. By limiting the use of all phones, we guard against this type of terrorist action.

Cellular phones should be allowed to be used, with reservation, on 14CFR91 and 14CFR125 flight operations where the pilot in command can control and recognize the passengers he is carrying. At times, it may be the pilot who needs to use a cellular phone in conjunction with search and rescue, fire spotting, or VHF communications failure. The pilot would also best know what his avionics package is, and whether cellular telephony would interfere with his navigation or flight control system.

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